



2019  
Plant Biology

XXIII Meeting of the Spanish Society of Plant Physiology | XVI Spanish Portuguese Congress of Plant Physiology

Pamplona  
June 26-28, 2019



Gonzaga Ruiz de Gauna Gutiérrez is an agronomic engineer and holds a Master in Business Administration (MBA) in Biotechnology Companies Management from *Aliter Business International School*. He is currently working as manager of the *Association for the promotion of Research and Technological Development in Plant Genomics (INVEGEN)* and coordinator of *The Spanish Technology Platform for Plant Biotechnology (BIOVEGEN)*, entities that bring together companies and research organizations from the agrifood sector. All these entities have the aim of improving the competitiveness of the sector through the incorporation of new technologies and the promotion of R&D activities related to Plant Biotechnology. Among its activities, the following stand out: facilitate contact and relations between technological offer & demand to generate business opportunities; identification and development of Public-Private collaborations; creation and coordination of R&D projects; consultancy in R&D issues (industrial property, protecting research results –patents, plant varieties, R&D funding mechanisms, tax incentives...); reporting process (calls, situation of the sector, Innovation & Research Strategic Agenda, etc.), and managing diverse forum for the promotion of technology transfer, in cooperation with Administration (Ministry of Economy, Industry & Competitiveness, Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology, Foreign Trade Institute, Spanish Patent and Trademark Office...). Previously, he worked as Technology Transfer technician in *Fundación Genoma España*, public agency dedicated to boost biotechnological innovation. He has also collaborated with *Expansión* financial newspaper, publishing articles related to biotechnological sector, and *Aliter Business International School* elaborating reports about the biotech sector.

[BIOVEGEN – Spanish Technology Platform for Plant Biotechnology](#) is a public-private partnership, led by the business sector, which brings together entities from the agrifood sector with an interest in R&D in applied Plant Biology. Our objective is to improve the agrifood sector competitiveness through the incorporation of new technologies based on Plant Biology. To that end, BIOVEGEN coordinates agrifood entities, connecting technological offer & demand and generating business opportunities through public-private collaboration. BIOVEGEN develops collaborations and R&D projects, identifying technological challenges of the sector. The Platform also serves as an interface between science community, business sector and administration. To do so, BIOVEGEN offers a wide range of tools to facilitate R&D activities to its members. Currently, the Platform has 85 members: 71 companies and 13 research centres, as well as the Ministry of Science and Innovation, which co-finances the initiative. Furthermore, BIOVEGEN is open to partnerships with other entities within the sector.